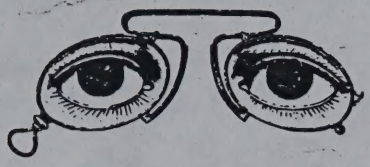


VIEW FROM THE TOP

they were freak shows."

The federation's main concern is the health of athletes, and taking any kind of drug is taboo. But the decision to have a more feminine ideal for women bodybuilders was also made, Weider told us, "to help the sport grow." He anticipates that more women will be attracted to bodybuilding if they see that attractive women like working out. Obviously, that excludes women who, after taking steroids, look like men.

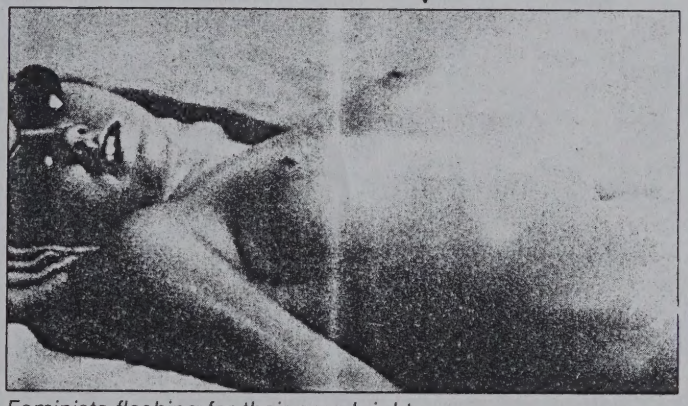
Weider says that even this new image will not stop all adverse reactions to women lifting weights. The main objection to women bodybuilders since they first began competing, he explains, was simply a reaction to something new. "It is not only upsetting to some people that women are now in bodybuilding, they were upset when women first became doctors or lawyers." But female bodybuilders and competitions are, in fact, becoming as accepted as female doctors and lawyers.

There are 128 countries in the International Federation of Bodybuilders, making it the sixth largest international amateur-sports organization. Last year the People's Republic of China held its first women's bodybuilding championship in Peking, and the federation is negotiating with the International Olympic Committee for recognition. Weider feels confident about a favorable decision, and believes that the federation's new standards for women's competition will popularize the sport even more.

"They still are muscular enough to show that a woman is not a passive beauty queen," Weider says of the bodybuilders. "Women who enter beauty pageants are what we call 'passive beauty queens.' They are what they are because that's the way they were born. What we have are active athletes that really have to train to become what they are." Move over, Miss Universe—here comes Miss Olympia!

SEX NEWS

Our favorite sex syndrome of the month is *koro*, a psychological affliction of Chinese and Malaysian men. Victims are convinced that their penises are shrinking into their abdomens and fear they will die as a result. . . . Iran continues to burrow back into the Dark Ages with its crackdown on "badly veiled" women, who are sent to special reform camps. The speaker of the Iranian parliament said "there is no such thing as equality between women and men" because "women have smaller brains than men.". . . The Republican party in Massachusetts is having trouble placing a candidate for governor on the ballot. Among other charges, a leading candidate was reportedly seen naked in his office, talking on the phone to himself. . . . A Zurich plumber was granted a divorce on the ground that his wife was obsessed with jigsaw puzzles. "I was forbidden to go into the living room because she said I would break up the puzzles spread all over the floor," he said. . . . The former mayor of New Orleans and 40 others who were in a crowd scene spliced into an adult movie by mistake have won $400,000 in damages. It seems *Candy the Stripper* contained segments of a videotape made for an Easter Seal benefit. . . . A man has filed suit against his former wife, alleging she hoodwinked him into giving her sperm samples, which she used to conceive a child after their divorce. She then demanded he pay child support. . . . Stone Age "families" might have consisted of only women and children. The "fathers" were outsiders roving in freewheeling packs. Researchers in prehistoric life say the nuclear family is a relatively new concept. Some early languages did not even have a word for "father.". . . A move to confiscate the book and movie profits of the "Mayflower Madam" has been defeated. A Manhattan judge ruled that because prostitution was a victimless crime, Sydney Biddle Barrows did not have to give up her profits. . . . Fear of divorce is one reason wives decide to work. Two economists at the University of Virginia concluded in a study that women feared abandonment and wanted to be able to survive on their own in the job world. . . . Constant exposure to men's underarm odor can regulate a woman's menstrual period, according to researchers at the International Flavors and Fragrance Corp. Scientists are using this information to investigate the possibility of a scent-based method of birth control. . . . A group of feminists in Rochester, New York, bared their breasts at a beach recently, asserting that if men can go topless, women can, too. The seven women drew oglers and police, who busted them for shedding their shirts. . . . When the Republicans and the Democrats both chose women as candidates for governor of Nebraska, a GOP state senator decided to challenge the nominations with a petition candidacy. Senator John DeCamp said the race would be just a "prom-queen contest" without him. . . . Even though most men agree housework should be divided equally, women still end up doing most of it. An Associated Press poll revealed that while men have good intentions, it is women who get the floor mopped.



Feminists flashing for their equal rights.